**Date:**March 15, 2020

**To:**Superintendents and Principals

**From**:    Colt Gill, Director of the Oregon Department of Education and Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

**RE:**       ODE COVID-19 FAQ for Oregon Schools

Hello All -

First, thanks to all of you for the work you are doing in your districts and communities. You are leading through unprecedented times. Oregon has not applied a statewide school closure in recent history. This is a new challenge and one we are all learning about as we move forward. It is good to lean on your knowledge of other emergency operations experiences, but in some ways this will be different. It will also look different from community to community.

Second, thanks for joining the call on Friday. This first FAQ was built from some of the priority questions from that call. **(Note:** [**FAQ is now a separate webpage.**](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Pages/COVID-19-FAQ.aspx)**)**

As part of ODE’s ongoing response to school closure and in support of districts responding to the COVID-19 outbreak, we will publish and regularly update this document, titled “FAQ for Oregon’s School District Leaders Responding to COVID-19”. The future document will be sectioned into categories for ease of navigation by topic and will include updates on nutrition services flexibility and waivers.

***Special note*** *– On Friday’s call superintendents asked to be given a “heads-up” when something is coming. As we move through this process that will not always be possible. However, in this FAQ there are statements in italics that note to watch for future updates. This means we are actively working on statewide supports, resources, or solutions that will alter direction.*

We will notify school district and ESD superintendents and when this FAQ is placed online so that you can bookmark the site and regularly check for updates. ODE will establish a dedicated email address, which will be shared in our next update, to receive any new questions emerging from the field.

We are also working to set-up a series of online superintendent meetings – the purpose will be to review specific guidance and answer questions.  ODE will work with partners at COSA to prioritize questions for these superintendent meetings. ODE, time permitting, will also review the feasibility of smaller online meetings with superintendents by region or district size in an effort to provide more customized support.

Between March 23rd and 27th, state authorities will re-evaluate where we are with school closures and other COVID-19 measures.

Thanks,

Colt